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ABSTRACT

By most measures, U.S. K-12 public schools continue on a path of mediocrity. To date, many states have implemented school choice programs, seeking to instill elements of competition and choice into their education systems. However, they all have limitations. An ideal school choice program would give every child a voucher or tax credit to be spent on educational services at any public or private school. The amount of the voucher or tax credit should be nearly equivalent to the amount of funds spent per student in public school. Government figures indicate that the average private elementary school tuition in the United States is less than $3,500, and the average private secondary school tuition is $6,052. Therefore, a voucher amount of $5,000 would give students access to most private schools. Since average per pupil spending for public schools is now $8,830, most states could offer a voucher amount even greater than $5,000 and still realize substantial savings. A survey of private schools in New Orleans; Houston; Denver; Charleston, South Carolina; Washington, DC, and Philadelphia shows that there are many options available to families with $5,000 to spend on a child's education. Even more options would be available if all parents were armed with a voucher or tax credit of that amount. An appendix presents tuition for private elementary and high schools in six U.S. cities. (SM)

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Policy Analysis

No. 486 August 28, 2003

Routing

What Does a Voucher Buy?
A Closer Look at the Cost of Private Schools

by David F. Salisbury

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Executive Summary

By most measures, America's K-12 public schools continue on a path of mediocrity and stagnation. For at least the last 20 years, various academics and public policy organizations have emphasized the need to introduce market forces into the American K-12 education system, citing the lack of competition and consumer power as the primary explanation for why public schools don't improve. To date, a number of states have implemented school choice programs, seeking to instill elements of competition and choice into their education systems. Unfortunately, all of those programs are limited in a number of ways. These limitations have prevented them from developing into fully competitive education markets. Implementation of a non-monopolistic education market is still in the future.

An ideal school choice program would give every child a voucher or tax credit to be spent on educational services at any public or private school. The amount of the voucher or tax credit should be nearly equivalent to the amount of funds spent per student in public school. Government figures indicate that the average private elementary school tuition in the United States is less than $3,500 and the average private secondary school tuition is $6,052. Therefore, a voucher amount of $5,000 would give students access to most private schools. Since average per pupil spending for public schools is now $8,830, most states could offer a voucher amount even greater than $5,000 and still realize substantial savings. A survey of private schools in New Orleans; Houston; Denver; Charleston, S.C.; Washington, D.C.; and Philadelphia shows that there are many options available to families with $5,000 to spend on a child's education. Even more options would be available if all parents were armed with a voucher or tax credit of that amount.

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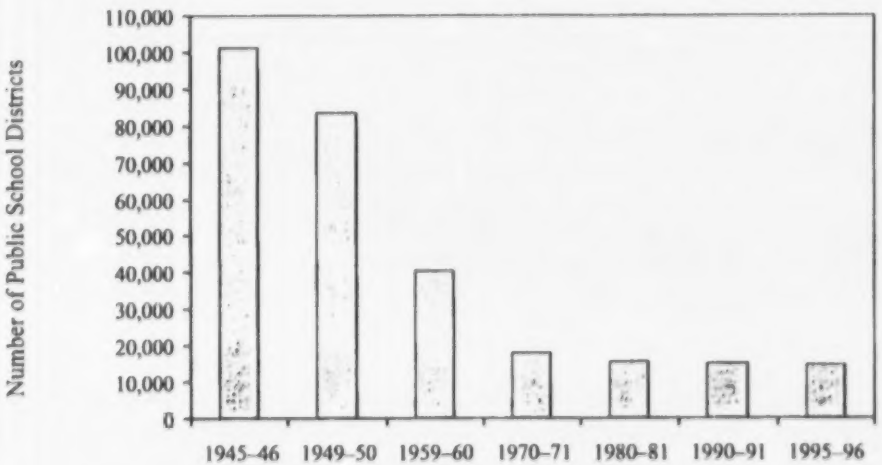
The idea of school choice goes back at least as far as Thomas Paine.

Introduction

The idea of school choice goes back at least as far as Thomas Paine, who in *The Rights of Man*, proposed providing parents with financial support for sending their children to private schools.[1] It was not, however, until Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman discussed the idea in his 1962 classic, *Capitalism and Freedom*, that the concept begin to receive serious consideration in modern America. Interest in school choice accelerated in 1983 following the release of A Nation at Risk, a report by the National Commission on Excellence in Education.[2] The report identified a rising tide of mediocrity in American education and forced education reformers and policymakers to take a serious look at what was wrong with the American educational system.[3] A massive survey of public and private schools published by John Chubb and Terry Moe in 1990 gave strong support to the growing belief that centralization and bureaucracy were the main causes of inefficiency in American public schools.[4] As evidence that America's government schools are overcentralized and bureaucratized, Chubb, Moe, and other scholars pointed to the marked difference between America's private schools and government schools in terms of administrative overhead. It was noted, for example, that New York City had 6,000 administrators in the government schools and only 25 in the Catholic schools even though the Catholic schools served nearly a quarter as many students.[5] Scholars such as David Boaz, in his book *Liberating Schools: Education in the Inner City*, noted the consistent trend over the last several decades toward larger, centralized school districts.[6] Although in 1945, there had been more than 100,000 school districts in the United States, the number had fallen to 14,881 by 1993 (see Figure 1). During the same period, the number of students enrolled in public schools increased from about 25 million to more than 46 million, so the number of students in each district rose dramatically.[7]

As school districts became larger, school bureaucracies increased dramatically in proportion to the number of teachers in school classrooms. Between 1960 and 1984, the

Figure 1
Number of Public School Districts, 1945–96



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2001*, Table 89.

number of nonteaching staff in government schools more than doubled, while the number of teachers grew by only 60 percent.[8] Teachers now constitute only 52 percent of school personnel compared to 65 percent in 1960 and 70 percent in 1950.[9]

It wasn't only free market intellectuals that pointed to monopoly and centralization as the core malady with public schools. As Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, noted:

> Public education operates like a planned economy, a bureaucratic system in which everybody's role is spelled out in advance and there are few incentives for innovation and productivity. It's no surprise that our school system doesn't improve: It more resembles the communist economy than our own market economy.[10]

In addition to causing massive inefficiencies and waste, monopoly institutions tend to serve many or most of their clients poorly, especially in a large and diverse society. As economist Walter Williams has written:

> A state monopoly in the production of a good or service enhances the potential for conflict, through requiring uniformity; that is, its production requires a collective decision on many attributes of the product, and once produced, everybody has to consume the identical product whether he agrees with all the attributes or not. State monopolies in the production of education enhance the potential for conflict by requiring conformity on issues of importance to many people.[11]

During the past 20 years, reformers have fought desperately for changes that would break the government monopoly in K-12 edu-

Table 1
Private School Tuition, by Type of School and Level: 1999–2000

Type of School	Average Tuition
All private schools	$4,689
Elementary	$3,267
Secondary	$6,052
Combined	$6,779
Catholic schools	$3,263
Elementary	$2,451
Secondary	$4,845
Combined	$6,780
Other religious schools	$4,063
Elementary	$3,503
Secondary	$6,536
Combined	$4,260
Nonsectarian schools	$10,992
Elementary	$7,884
Secondary	$14,638
Combined	$12,363

Source: Based on National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002*, Table 61 (1999–2000). Elementary schools have grades six or lower and no grade higher than eight. Secondary schools have no grade lower than seven. Combined schools have grades lower than seven and higher than eight. Excludes pre-kindergarten students.

During the past 20 years, reformers have fought for changes that would break the government monopoly in K-12 education.

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Table 2
U.S. Private Schools, by Tuition, 1999–2000

Tuition	Number of Schools	Percent
Less than $2,500	10,242	41%
$2,500–$4,999	9,645	38%
$5,000 or more	5,251	21%

Source: Based on National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002*, Table 61 (1999–2000).

cation. To date, a number of states have implemented school choice programs. Unfortunately, these programs are limited in a number of ways that have prevented a fully competitive education market from developing.[12] Virtually all place limitations on the number of students who can participate, or restrict participation to children from the community's poorest families or schools. Such restrictions dilute the potential benefits that would arise from a fully competitive education market. Although limited school choice programs such as these provide help to some children, they are not large enough to unleash the market forces necessary to create a major revolution in educational quality.[13]

An ideal school choice program would give every child a voucher or tax credit to be spent on educational services at any public or private school in the state. The amount of the voucher or tax credit should be nearly equivalent to the amount of tax funds already being spent per student in the government schools.

An ideal school choice program would give *every* child a voucher or tax credit.

Government figures show that the average private elementary school tuition in America is less than $3,500 (Table 1). The average tuition at private secondary schools is $6,052. Since the average tuition for all private schools, elementary and secondary, is $4,689, a voucher amount of $5,000 would be adequate to cover tuition at most private schools. Since the average per pupil spending for public schools is now $9,354, most states could propose an even higher voucher amount and still realize substantial savings.[14]

Government figures also indicate that in 1999–2000 some 41 percent of all private elementary and secondary schools—more than 27,000 nationwide—charged less than $2,500 for tuition (Table 2). Seventy-nine percent of American private elementary schools and secondary schools charged less than $5,000.

The figures cited above probably underestimate the actual real costs of both public and private schools for the reason that reported public school costs typically omit such real costs as capital outlays and pension liabilities.[15] Likewise, private school tuition is often supplemented by contributions from philanthropists, fundraising events, and in-kind contributions by parents, and below-market labor costs, especially in Catholic schools.[16]

Cato Institute Survey of Private Schools

Critics of school choice often report erroneous or misleading information about the cost of private schools in various cities.[17] To evaluate the usefulness of a voucher or tax credit in a variety of urban environments, the Cato Institute surveyed all private schools in six disparate American cities.[18] Five of the six cities surveyed (New Orleans, Houston, Denver, Charleston, and Philadelphia) are in states where school choice legislation has recently passed or is currently being considered. For Washington, D.C., the sixth city, the federal government is considering school choice legislation. The survey results indicate that for the 2002-03 school year, in each of those cities, the majority of private elementary schools charged $5,000 or less. Although they were not as prevalent, each city had pri-

vate secondary schools that charged $5,000 or less. Tuition rates for the six cities are reported below. See Appendix for details.

New Orleans

The New Orleans public school district spent $5,797 per pupil, according to the Louisiana Department of Education.[19] At private elementary schools, the median tuition was $2,386. One hundred nineteen of the city's 127 private elementary schools charge less than the public schools' per pupil expenditure and 118 of those charge less than $5,000.

Thirty-six of the 40 private secondary schools in New Orleans charge less than the $5,797 per student spent by the city, and 34 of those charge less than $5,000. The median tuition at New Orleans private secondary schools is $3,895.

Houston

Annual per pupil spending in the Houston school district was $7,089.[20] By contrast, 119 of Houston's 144 private elementary schools charged less than that amount and 90 of those charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition for Houston private primary schools was $4,325.

Twenty-four of Houston's 38 private secondary schools charged less than the city spends. Seventeen charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition for private secondary schools in Houston was $6,150.

Denver

The Denver public schools spent $9,919 per pupil[21] even though there are plenty of low-cost private schools available. Only six of the city's 91 private elementary schools charged as much as the government schools spent, and 62 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition was $3,528.

In addition, only 6 of Denver's 46 private secondary schools charged as much as the government schools spend, and 20 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition at Denver's private secondary schools was $5,995.

Charleston, S.C.

The Charleston school district spent $6,701 per pupil.[22] Only 6 of the city's 31 private elementary schools charged that much and 25 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition was $3,153.

All but 4 of Charleston's 18 private secondary schools charged less than the government schools spent, and 13 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition was $4,056.

Washington, D.C.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, public schools in the District of Columbia spent $11,009 per pupil.[23] In contrast, 45 of the District's 62 private elementary schools charged less than that amount and 39 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition for Washing- ton's private elementary schools was $4,500.

Seven of the District's 22 private secondary schools charged less than the city spends, but only 2 charged $5,000 or less. The median tuition for private secondary schools in Washington, D.C., the most expensive of the six cities surveyed, is $16,075. Lower-cost private secondary schools are available in neighboring counties of Maryland and Virginia where the median tuition is $6,920.[24]

Philadelphia

Per pupil expenditures in the Philadelphia public schools were $8,303.[25] Yet 189 of Philadelphia's 200 private elementary schools charge less than that amount and 177 of those charge less than $5,000. The median tuition for Philadelphia's private elementary schools was $2,504.

Of the city's 54 private secondary schools, 43 charge less than the public schools' per pupil expenditure, and 37 charge no more than $5,000. The median tuition is $4,310.

Designing School Choice Programs

Currently, the majority of low-cost private schools are religiously affiliated and are subsi-

Many politicians and members of the public think that the profit motive has no place in education. There's no reason that should be so.

dized in part by the affiliated church. In most cities, the Catholic church offers the largest number of schools in the low-cost price range. New start-up schools cannot be expected to match the cost of local Catholic schools; therefore, states should not target school choice programs toward the cost of Catholic schools. However, a voucher amount of $5,000 or more would give students access to most private schools, religious and nonreligious.26

In addition, the ideal school choice plan would allow parents to add their own money to the amount of the voucher or tax credit, if they desired. The ability of some families to supplement the amount of tuition paid is what would drive innovation and progress in educational methods and practices. Although new innovations may first be tried in more expensive schools, those innovations would eventually be adopted by schools generally. As in all economic sectors, wealthy people provide the initial capital to finance experimentation and innovation. Those innovations that are found to be most useful are soon expanded. The price of the innovation comes down, and the product is made available to everyone at less cost. A school choice program that prohibits families who wish to from adding onto their tuition produces a market that is far less attractive to new capital and new entry than a program where entrepreneurs can attract consumers from all income levels. Without the interest and investment of wealthy and middle-income families, a real educational revolution will probably not occur.

Some school choice programs restrict the participation of for-profit schools.[27] That is a serious mistake. Since the purpose of school choice is to focus market forces and capital on the problem of education, the profit motive is an important part of educational reform. Without the benefit of the profit motive, there is less motivation for schools to expand or improve their services.

Historically, most private schools have operated as nonprofit entities. Although private schools have been shown generally to do a better job than public schools, the independent nonprofit education sector has performed very poorly when compared to economic sectors in which the profit motive is present.[28] For example, improvement and innovation in the computer, medical, and automobile industries have advanced rapidly. In contrast, schools and classrooms look basically the same as they did a generation ago, and educational costs have increased without any advances or improvements. Even the best and most successful private schools have generally failed to expand, and instructional innovations that have been shown to be effective based on empirical evidence have been outnumbered by ill-conceived educational fads.

The profit motive, in education as in any other enterprise, is a necessary ingredient in the generation of new ideas, innovations, and efficiencies.

Economists who look at the lack of progress in educational improvement often cite the absence of the profit motive as a major factor. This absence of the profit motive has dissuaded entrepreneurs from investing substantial time and financial resources in schooling. If school choice programs exclude the possibility for profit making, entrepreneurs will continue to turn their attention to other types of activities and schools, and children will loose the benefit of the innovative products, services, and efficiencies that creative people would have brought to the education enterprise.[29]

Unfortunately, many politicians and members of the public think that the profit motive has no place in education. There's no reason that should be so. For-profit day care and preschool are a thriving industry in the United States, giving quality childcare and early childhood educational services to children every day. The same would be true in K-12 education. For-profit schools like Sylvan Learning Systems and Kaplan Inc. have been providing quality educational programs to thousands of satisfied children and parents for years. The profit motive, in education as in any other enterprise, is a necessary ingredient in the generation of new ideas, innovations, and efficiencies.[30]

Vouchers or Tax Credits

Access to private schools can be achieved through vouchers or tax credits. Under a

voucher program, a state would issue a voucher to the parent or guardian of every child, to be spent on tuition at the private or government school of the parent's choosing. Government schools should be required to honor the voucher as full payment, but private schools should be free to charge an additional amount if they choose to do so—to allow more variety in the educational system.

Under a tax credit approach, parents who chose a private school for their child would be required to pay tuition out of their own pockets, then claim a dollar-for-dollar credit off their state income tax each year at tax time. For a tax credit approach to be successful, the program would have to include both parental tax credits and scholarship tax credits. Parental tax credits allow parents to receive a credit off their own state income tax in exchange for paying tuition at a private school. Scholarship tax credits allow other taxpayers (either individuals or businesses) to receive a dollar-for-dollar credit off their individual or corporate income tax for contributions made to scholarship-granting organizations within the state. Scholarship tax credits make funds available to low-income children whose parents pay little or no state income tax and who therefore cannot claim the credit themselves.

One disadvantage of credits over vouchers is that credits make less money available for private school tuition, since most parents don't pay enough in state income tax to cover the cost of tuition, even if they receive a full credit. This disadvantage can be overcome by allowing taxpayers to, in addition, claim a credit against property taxes paid for public schools. Parents who pay private school tuition could receive a certificate that could be used as full or partial payment of property taxes. Likewise, parents who rent rather than own property could pass the certificate along to their landlord as partial rent payment. The landlord could then use the certificate toward payment of real estate tax.[31]

Avoiding Regulations on Private Schools

For the maximum benefits of school choice to be realized, it is important that private schools remain independent and free of regulations that would prohibit specialization, innovation, and creativity. Private schools should not be required to administer state-sanctioned tests or adopt state curriculum guidelines or "standards."

Requiring private schools to give state-selected achievement tests would have deleterious effects on the participating private schools. Some private schools would have to give up the curriculum they have designed for their own students and teach the state-sanctioned curriculum instead. That would be a drastic blow to the diversity and vitality of the private education sector. Many state tests emphasize "new math" over traditional math and stress the use of modern "culturally diverse texts" over traditional literature, a staple of many effective private schools.[32]

Most private schools already administer standardized tests as a way to measure student academic progress, but there is wide variation among private schools in terms of test preference.[33] Some prefer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills because they feel it tests for a more traditional coverage of the curriculum; others prefer the Stanford-9 or the CAT. Some private schools shun standardized tests altogether, choosing to rely instead on more holistic measures of student progress. The fact that many private schools don't want to administer state tests doesn't mean that they are not serious academic institutions with rigorous standards of excellence. It simply means that their curriculum and standards are different from those of government schools. Most state standards have no empirical basis. Rather, state standards and tests are typically the product of an awkward compromise between disparate factions of the professional education community, many of which are influenced by educational fads and politically popular thinking.[34]

It is important that private schools remain independent and free of regulations that would prohibit specialization, innovation, and creativity.

In all six cities surveyed, low-cost alternatives to public schools exist today.

Rules requiring private schools to accept all applicants severely jeopardize the ability of private schools to specialize by focusing on specific types of students. Consumers have diverse preferences and producers have unique skills, talents, and interests. The purpose of school choice is to give parents choices among schools of differing specializations, ideologies, and practices. It defeats this purpose to make private schools into one-size-fits-all carbon copies of public schools. There is value in allowing schools to specialize in helping students with special needs, students with an interest in the performing arts, students with particular religious preferences or allowing schools to admit only boys or only girls. Requiring schools that participate in school choice programs to admit all students dilutes the positive benefits that can be derived from specialization.

There is reason to believe that many private schools will not participate in school choice programs if those programs require that they give up their curriculum, religious environment, ability to admit students based on the school's unique specialization, or mission.[35] Imposing state standards or admission policies on private schools would create an institutional rigidity and uniformity that would limit the diversity of standards, school practices, curricula, and educational philosophies that exists in the private school market. States that enact school choice programs should therefore avoid imposing regulations on private schools that would only dilute the positive effects of competition and choice.

Conclusion

Private schools should be an option for low-income as well as higher-income families. In all six cities surveyed, low-cost alternatives to public schools exist today. Even a poor child, armed with a voucher of $5,000, could obtain a quality private education in any of the cities studied herein. The prices of private schools in those municipalities are representative of private school costs around the country. Even if the amount of the voucher or tax credit were limited to two-thirds of the per pupil cost of public schools, the value would exceed $5,000 in many urban and suburban communities.

Lower-income cities included in our survey—New Orleans and Philadelphia—have greater proportions of low-cost private schools than high-cost schools, with 93 percent of elementary schools in New Orleans and 89 percent of elementary schools in Philadelphia charging less than $5,000. That shows that the creation of private schools follows basic principles of supply and demand. Education entrepreneurs in those two cities cater to a clientele that, for the most part, cannot spend more than several thousand dollars for private schools, so they create schools to cater to parents who will look for a school in that price range.

In some cities, only a relatively small number of students could be accommodated immediately in private schools once a tax credit or voucher program was implemented. Available seating capacity in private schools is particularly scarce for high school students. Yet choice programs would set in motion a dynamic process of growth and change that would result in an ever-increasing number of private school options for students.

Existing school choice programs have already provided evidence that increased benefits and options become available to students after choice is implemented. In Florida, for example, where students are able to attend private schools under several choice programs, the number of private schools in the state has increased as school choice has become more widespread.[36] Private entrepreneurs and philanthropic foundations have poured more than $76 million into Milwaukee's private schools since school choice was implemented there. Sixty-five schools in Milwaukee have completed capital expansion projects indicating that educational entrepreneurs do respond to increased market demands.[37]

A program of school choice through vouchers or tax credits, with few restrictions

on private schools, will not only give children access to a better education today, it will unleash the power of constructive competition that will lead to dramatically improved outcomes in the future. A voucher or tax credit of $5,000 or more per student would give families the clout they need as consumers. There are already many affordable high-quality private schools on the market, and, once they are allowed to compete on a level playing field with government schools, many more will come into operation. As our nation enters its 20th year since *A Nation at Risk*, it is imperative not to delay further but to implement school choice reforms as soon as possible.

It is imperative to implement school choice reforms as soon as possible.

Appendix: Tuition for Private Elementary and High Schools in Six U.S. Cities (in dollars)

New Orleans (Elementary Schools)	
One in Christ Academy	975
St. George's Episcopal School	1,055
Solid Rock Academy	1,400
Sr. Clara Muhammad School	1,400
St. Alphonsus School	1,654
Ephesus Adventist Junior Academy	1,700
St. Jude School	1,700
St. Mark School	1,721
St. Benilde School	1,750
Mt. Carmel Christian Faith Academy	1,800
Visitation of Our Lady School	1,837
St. Mary of the Angels	1,875
Sacred Heart of Jesus	1,926
St. Peter Chanel School	1,930
Westbank Christian Center Academy	1,931
St. Louis Cathedral School	1,950
Lake Castle Private School	2,000
Light City Christian Academy	2,000
St. Raymond School	2,000
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School—Belle Chasse	2,050
St. Joan of Arc Catholic School	2,056
Corpus Christi School	2,065
St. Rita School—New Orleans	2,090
First Baptist Christian School	2,100
Myrtle Magee Christian Academy	2,100
St. Edward the Confessor	2,100
St. Monica Catholic School	2,100
St. Peter Claver School	2,100
Concordia Lutheran	2,116
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School	2,170
Holy Ghost Catholic School	2,190
Our Lady of Divine Providence	2,195
Chalmette Christian Academy	2,200
St. David Catholic School	2,200
St. Paul the Apostle School	2,200
St. Simon Peter	2,200
Victory Christian Academy	2,208
St. Frances Cabrini Elementary School	2,227
The Primary School	2,230
Our Lady of Grace School	2,250
St. Louis King of France	2,270
St. Andrew the Apostle School	2,275
St. Angela Merici School	2,275
Bishop McManus Academy	2,295
Grace Baptist Academy	2,300
St. Rita School—Harahan	2,300
Strong Faith Christian Academy	2,300
St. Joseph the Worker School	2,308
St. Stephen Catholic School	2,310
St. Peter School—Covington	2,320
St. Agnes School	2,324
St. Catherine of Siena School	2,329
Faith Academy	2,330
St. Mary Magdalene	2,335
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School—Kenner	2,340
The Upper Room Bible Church Academy	2,340
Reserve Christian School	2,350
Word of Life Academy	2,350
St. Cletus School	2,374
St. Louise de Marillac School	2,375
St. Philip Neri	2,375
Riverside Academy	2,385
St. Paul Lutheran	2,385
Terrytown Academy	2,386
Calvary Baptist School	2,400
Providence 2 Christian Academy	2,400
River Ridge Christian Academy	2,400
St. Peter School—Reserve	2,409
Christ the King Parish School	2,425
Immaculate Heart of Mary	2,440
Our Lady of Prompt Succor School—Chalmette	2,450
St. Rosalie School	2,450
St. Francis Xavier	2,470
St. Anthony School	2,479
St. Margaret Mary	2,490
All Saints Catholic School	2,500
New Orleans Christian Academy	2,500
Primary School	2,500
Prince of Peace Lutheran School	2,500
Our Lady of Prompt Succor School—Westwego	2,525
St. Pius X School	2,525
Immaculate Conception School	2,540
Believer's Life Christian Academy	2,550
St. Robert Bellarmine	2,550
St. Anthony of Padua	2,560

St. Joseph Central	2,575
St. Leo the Great	2,620
Walden Academy	2,675
Ascension of Our Lord	2,676
St. Joseph Major School	2,695
First Baptist Christian School—Kenner	2,700
Salem Lutheran School	2,700
St. Joan of Arc School—LaPlace	2,728
Westbank Cathedral Academy	2,760
Elmwood Park Academy	2,790
Lynn Oaks School	2,800
St. John Lutheran School	2,880
Crescent City Baptist School	2,900
Faith Christian Academy	2,900
Memorial Baptist Christian	2,900
Resurrection of Our Lord	2,900
Our Lady of the Lake	2,920
St. Michael Special School	2,925
St. Dominic School	2,956
Kuumba Academy	2,985
Holy Name of Mary	2,990
Northlake Christian School	3,023
Marrero Christian Academy	3,270
John Curtis Christian	3,300
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School	3,445
Ecole Classique	3,700
Ridgewood Preparatory School	3,990
Crescent Academy	4,000
Arden Cahill Academy	4,100
Ursuline Academy	4,315
Holy Name of Jesus School	4,383
Perrault's Kiddy Kollege	4,400
Kehoe—France	4,986
Christ Episcopal School	5,350
Holy Rosary Academy	6,100
Saint Andrew's Episcopal School	7,090
Academy of the Sacred Heart	7,350
Trinity Episcopal School	10,510
St. Paul's Episcopal School	10,750
St. Martin's Episcopal	10,850
Isidore Newman School	10,865
Louise S. McGehee School	11,100
Median Tuition	2,386

New Orleans (High Schools)

Grace Baptist Academy	2,300
Word of Life Academy	2,552
Bishop McManus Academy	2,595
St. Mary's Academy	2,735
Riverside Academy	2,790
Marian Central Catholic Middle School	2,793
St. Michael Special School	2,925
Zina Christian Academy	3,000
Redeemer-Seton Senior High School	3,237
Life of Christ Christian Academy	3,400
St. Augustine High School	3,450
Crescent City Baptist High School	3,500
Xavier Preparatory School	3,500
St. Paul's High School	3,650
St. Mary's Dominican High School	3,735
St. Charles Catholic High School	3,775
Immaculata High School	3,800
Archbishop Hannan High School	3,850
Archbishop Chapelle High School	3,875
Ridgewood Preparatory School	3,890
Ecole Classique	3,900
Archbishop Shaw High School	4,000
Archbishop Blenk High School	4,100
Archbishop Rummel High School	4,175
Christian Brothers School	4,200
Lutheran High School	4,300
Ursuline Academy	4,315
Northlake Christian School	4,350
Cabrini High School	4,365
Marrero Christian Academy	4,440
Pope John Paul II Sr. High School	4,500
De La Salle High School	4,600
Jesuit High School	4,625
Mt. Carmel Academy	5,000
Holy Cross School	5,025
Brother Martin High School	5,090
Louise S. McGehee School	11,100
Isidore Newman School	12,355
St. Martin's Episcopal	12,375
St. Stanislaus College	14,500
Median Tuition	3,895

Houston (Elementary Schools)

Walden School	1,320
Childrens Garden Montessori	1,440
Christ the Lord School	1,440
Helmers Street Christian	1,750
Finney Christian Academy	1,850
New Covenant Christian Academy	1,950
Holy Name Catholic School	2,000
Christian Academy	2,080
Shady Acres Christian School	2,100

Smaller Scholars Too	2,100
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School	2,100
Mcgee Chapel Rainbow Academy	2,180
Pecan Street Christian Academy	2,250
Sacred Heart School	2,300
St. Cecilia School	2,350
Channelview Christian School	2,400
A and B Nursery	2,500
Central Christian	2,500
Houston Church Christian Academy	2,500
Southeast Academy	2,500
St. Peter the Apostle	2,500
Woodward Acres	2,500
Encourager Christian Academy	2,600
Irvington Pentacostal Church	2,600
St. Philip Neri Catholic School	2,600
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	2,629
Restoration Outreach Christian	2,700
Robindell Private School	2,788
Holy Trinity Methodist	2,850
Humble Christian School	2,975
Darul Arqam School	3,000
Excel Adventist Academy	3,000
Virgie-Lu Children's Center for Cognitive Growth	3,000
St. Jerome Catholic School	3,100
St. Agnes Christian Academy	3,150
St. Ambrose School	3,150
W Houston Adventist School	3,150
St. Chris Catholic	3,170
R Christian Academy	3,250
Beth Yeshurun Day School	3,300
St. Jerome School	3,300
Texas Christian School	3,300
Royal Christian Academy	3,350
St. Rose of Lima Academy	3,350
All God's Children	3,360
Baytown Christian Academy	3,391
Grace School	3,400
St. Claire's	3,400
St. Clare of Assi Catholic School	3,440
Academies of Houston School	3,500
St. Anne Catholic School	3,500
St. Augustine Catholic School	3,500
St. Mary of The Purification Montessori	3,500
Tower Christian	3,500
Al-Hadi School	3,540
Abiding Word Lutheran School	3,600
Crestmont Kiddie College	3,600
Mission Christian Academy	3,600
Seatob Catholic Junior High	3,650
Incarnate Word Academy	3,780
Inwood Oaks Christian School	3,780
Grace Christian School	3,880
Adapt Learning System and School	4,000
Banff School	4,000
Southwest Christian Academy	4,000
Your University	4,000
St. James Epsicopal School	4,050
John Paul II Catholic School	4,100
Immaculate Heart of Mary School	4,250
St. James Episcopal Day School	4,250
American Montessori School	4,300
The Fay School	4,300
Champions Christian Academy Day	4,350
St. Vincents	4,380
Classical School	4,420
Westbury Christian School	4,450
Our Savior Lutheran School	4,485
Holy Ghost	4,500
Mackes Private School	4,500
St. Michael Catholic School	4,500
Ma Montessori	4,535
Northwest Montessori	4,550
West Houston Christian Academy	4,750
Trinity Lutheran Academy	4,900
Memorial Hall School	4,950
Rainard School	4,950
St. Mark Lutheran School	4,950
Phoenix Academy	4,961
Woods School	4,961
The Alphabet Club	5,000
St Catherines Montessori	5,150
Redd School	5,200
St. Thomas	5,200
Christian School of Kingwood	5,220
Jesus Center Academy	5,280
Sherwood Forest Montessori School	5,308
Broadway Christian School	5,400
Cypruss Community Christian School	5,400
Montessori Country Day	5,450
Carethers Academy School	5,490
Fort Bend Baptist Academy and Middle School	5,520
Banff School	5,652
Ambassador	5,750
American Preparatory School	5,950

Galloway School	5,960
Lutheran Academy	6,250
Melrose Baptist School	6,265
Sherwood Montessori	6,300
Cornerstone Christian Academy	6,350
St Nicholas School	6,500
St Agnes Academy School	6,600
Ascension Episcopal School	6,630
Ascension School	6,630
Northland Christian	6,650
Wesley Academy	6,720
St Theresa's School	6,800
Mission Bend Methodist Day School	7,000
Queen of Peace	7,000
St. Thomas Episcopal	7,000
Branch School	7,250
The Walden School	7,300
First Baptist Academy	7,350
Small S. Montessori School	7,600
First Baptist Academy	7,875
Aston Academy	8,100
Renard Academy	8,200
River Oaks	8,250
St Mark Lutheran School	8,250
The Village School	8,253
West Oaks Private School	8,300
Annunciation Orthodox School	8,405
School of the Woods	8,500
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	9,100
Fay School	9,200
Kinkaid School	9,355
School of the Woods	9,936
Cottage School	10,000
St Jerome School	10,925
St. Johns School	10,925
Presbyterian School	11,030
Duchesne Academy of The Sacred Heart	11,940
River Oaks Baptist School	13,280
Alexander Smith Academy	19,200
Early Montessori	22,500
Median Tuition	4,325

Houston (High Schools)

New Covenant Christian Academy	1,950
Montessori School	2,000
Christian Academy	2,080
Southeast Academy	2,500
Woodward Acres	2,500
Irvington Pentecostal Church	2,600
Central Christian	2,750
Seton Catholic Jr. High School	2,950
Excel Adventist Academy	3,000
Houston Adventist School	3,150
Christian Academy	3,250
Academies of Houston School	3,500
Darul Arqam School	3,500
Abiding Word Lutheran School	3,800
Texas Christian School	3,900
Grace Christian School	4,875
Mount Carmel High School	5,000
Houston Jr Academy	5,400
St. Pius X High School	5,950
Cornerstone Christian Academy	6,350
Melrose Baptist School	6,415
Cypruss Community Christian School	6,790
Lutheran High North	6,800
St. Theresa's School	6,800
Tower Christian Academy	7,200
Lutheran Academy	7,250
St. Thomas Episcopal	7,775
St Thomas High School	7,900
River Oaks	8,250
Northland Christian	8,400
Strake Jesuit College Prep	8,500
School of The Woods	9,936
Duchesne Academy of The Sacred Heart	11,940
Kinkaid School	12,715
St. Johns School	13,775
Episcopal High School	14,380
Tenney School	16,000
Alexander Smith Academy	19,200
Median Tuition	6, 150

Denver (Elementary Schools)

Messiah Baptist Schools	1,800
Zion Lutheran	2,225
Arvada SDA Christian School	2,250
Mile High Baptist School	2,250
Cedarwood Christian Academy	2,280
Our Lady Help of Christians Academy	2,400
Emmaus Lutheran School	2,430
St. Andrew Lutheran School	2,475
Union Baptist Excel Institute	2,475
Calvert Christian	2,500
Colorado State Academy of Arvada	2,660
St. Frances De Sales	2,700
Peace with Christ	2,800
Presentation of Our Lady School	2,800

Colorado Christian School	2,830
Redeemer Lutheran School	2,850
St. Catherine of Sienna School	2,871
Guardian Angels	2,900
Our Lady of the Rosary Academy	2,917
Beth Eden Baptist School	2,950
St. Pius Catholic School	2,950
St. Bernadette School	2,988
Assumption Catholic School	2,990
Loyola Catholic Grade School	3,000
Belleview Christian School	3,050
Shrine of St. Anne	3,050
Annunciation Catholic School	3,200
Colorado Christian School	3,200
Westland Christian Academy	3,200
Silver State Baptist School	3,225
Change Christian Academy	3,249
Most Precious Blood Parish School	3,250
Sts. Peter and Pauls C.S.	3,250
Christ the King Catholic School	3,300
St. Mary's School	3,300
St. Therese School	3,300
St. Thomas Moore School	3,300
Our Lady of Lourdes School	3,400
Notre Dame Catholic School	3,475
Aurora Christian Academy	3,487
Escuela de Guadalupe	3,500
Faith Christian Academy	3,500
Mile High Adventist Academy	3,500
St. Rose of Lima School	3,500
Good Shepherd Catholic School	3,528
Riverview Christian Academy	3,528
Christian Fellowship School	3,600
Holy Family Grade School	3,680
University Hills Lutheran	3,700
St. James Catholic School	3,780
St. John's Lutheran	3,800
St. Louis Catholic School	3,811
American Christian Academy	4,000
Institute of Global Scholarship	4,000
Love Christian Fellowship	4,000
St. Vincent de Paul School	4,000
Watch Care Academy	4,000
Blessed Sacrament School	4,200
Bethany Christian Academy	4,500
Jim Elliot School	4,750
Denver Christian Schools	4,990
Van Dellen Christian School	5,000
Dove Christian Academy	5,200
Escuela Tlatelolco	5,890
Denver Academy	6,000
Montessori School of Denver	6,244
Denver Waldorf School	6,400
Hillel Academy	6,550
Tetra Academy	6,550
Inner-City Christian School	6,780
Denver Academy of Torah	7,300
Mount St. Vincent School	7,500
Denver International School	7,860
Herzl Jewish Day School	7,940
Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy	7,941
Stanley British Primary School	7,954
St. Mary's Academy	8,800
Montclair Academy	8,925
Kent Denver School	9,000
Beacon Country Day School	9,200
Logan School for Creative Learning	9,320
Calvary Apostolic Academy	9,700
St. Anne's Episcopal School	9,800
MacIntosh Academy	9,814
Graland Country Day	11,102
Rick's Center for Gifted Children	11,400
Havern Center	12,250
Colorado Academy	13,225
Alexander Dawson	13,575
Accelerated Schools Found #1	13,850
Median Tuition	3,528

Denver (High Schools)

Messiah Baptist Schools	1,800
Our Lady Help of Christians Academy	2,400
Emmaus Lutheran School	2,430
Calvert Christian	2,500
El Dorado Academy	2,525
Colorado State Academy of Arvada	2,660
Colorado Catholic Academy	3,000
Belleview Christian School	3,250
Westwood Academy	3,400
Mile High Adventist Academy	3,500
Silver State Baptist School	3,644
CHANGE Christian Academy	3,753
Christian Fellowship School	3,780
Aurora Christian Academy	3,795
Wood Adventist	3,800
La Academia	4,000
Riverview Christian Academy	4,095
Bethany Christian Academy	4,500
Jim Elliot School	4,750

Lutheran H.S. of the Rockies	5,000
Dove Christian Academy	5,200
Denver Christian Middle School	5,540
Denver Lutheran High School	5,990
Denver Academy	6,000
Love Christian Fellowship	6,000
Lutheran High School	6,000
Bishop Machebeuf High School	6,100
Yeshiva Toras Chaim	6,250
Mullen High School	6,300
Denver Waldorf School	6,400
Denver Christian High	6,470
Denver Street School	6,600
Regis Jesuit High School	6,750
Holy Family High School	7,000
Denver Academy of Torah	7,300
Escuela Tlatelolco	7,500
Beth Jacob High School	7,700
Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy	8,694
St. Mary's Academy	8,800
Kent Denver School	9,000
Calvary Apostolic Academy	9,700
University of Denver High School	11,970
Humanex Academy	12,000
Alexander Dawson	13,575
Colorado Academy	13,990
Accelerated Schools Found #1	17,750
Median Tuition	5,995

Charleston, S.C. (Elementary Schools)

First Baptist Church School	2,160
Christ our King-Stella Maris	2,360
Ferndale Baptist School	2,400
Abundant Life Christian Academy	2,500
Divine Redeemer School	2,600
Charleston SDA Jr Academy	2,700
Blessed Sacrament School	2,800
St. John's Christian Academy	2,840
Archbald Rutledge Academy	3,000
Summerville Catholic School	3,000
New Israel Christian School	3,024
Northwood Academy	3,036
Evangel Christian School	3,048
Harvest Baptist School	3,058
Northside Christian School	3,058
St. Johns Catholic School	3,100
Nativity Elementary School	3,150
Northwood Christian School	3,156
Cathedral Academy	3,200
West Ashley Christian Academy	3,704
Charleston Catholic School	3,742
St. Paul's Country Day School	3,828
Charleston Christian School	3,838
James Island Christian School	3,908
First Baptist School of Mt. Pleasant	4,100
Pinewood Preparatory School	5,100
Mason Preparatory School	6,390
Charleston Collegiate School	6,553
Addlestone Hebrew Academy	6,950
Charleston Day School	9,550
Porter-Gaud School	10,795
Ashley Hall	11,055
North Charleston Academy	17,000
Trident Academy	18,200
Median Tuition	3,153

Charleston, S.C. (High Schools)

Ferndale Baptist School	2,500
First Baptist Church School	2,500
Archibald Rutiledge Academy	3,000
St. John's Christian Academy	3,325
Harvest Baptist School	3,355
Northside Christian School	3,553
Cathedral Academy	3,595
Palmetto Academy	3,750
Northwood Academy	3,912
James Island Christian School	4,200
St. Paul's Country Day School	4,323
First Baptist School of Mt Pleasant	4,500
Bishop England High School	4,650
Pinewood Preparatory School	6,200
Charleston Collegiate School	7,683
Ashley Hall	11,055
Porter-Gaud School	12,390
Trident Academy	18,350
Median Tuition	4,056

D.C. (Elementary Schools)

Immaculate Conception School	3,000
Rhema Christian Center School	3,000
Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian School	3,100
Holy Name School	3,100
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	3,100
Our Lady Queen of Peace School	3,100
Sacred Heart Elementary School	3,100
St. Augustine School	3,100
St. Francis de Sales School	3,100
St. Francis Xavier School	3,100

St. Thomas More Elementary School	3,100
St. Thomas More School	3,100
Holy Temple Christian Academy	3,108
Nativity B.V.M.	3,245
St. Thomas More Cathedral School	3,245
St. Benedict the Moor School	3,255
Assumption School	3,265
Anacostia Bible Church Christian	3,300
Cornerstone Bible Church School	3,300
First Rock Baptist Church Christian	3,300
St. Gabriel School	3,400
Cornerstone Community School	3,500
St. Anthony Catholic School	3,535
Dupont Park Seventh Day Adventist	3,746
A-T Seban Mesut	3,750
Sankofa Fie	3,750
Holy Redeemer Catholic School	3,833
Nannie Helen Burroughs School, Inc.	3,942
Muhammad University of Islam	4,307
Calvary Christian Academy	4,400
Bridges Academy	4,483
Clara Muhammad School	4,500
Washington Science and Technology Academy	4,500
Blessed Sacrament Elementary School	4,560
Roots Activity Learning Center	4,670
Annunciation School	4,770
Ideal Academy	4,800
Naylor Road School	4,940
St. Peter's Interparish School	4,942
Academy for Ideal Education	5,000
St. Ann's Academy	5,114
Our Lady of Victory School	5,550
Metropolitan Day School	6,200
Preparatory School of D.C.	8,000
Beauvoir the National Cathedral	8,583
Holy Trinity School	8,640
British School of Washington	12,000
Aidan Montessori School	13,075
Owl School	13,900
Capitol Hill Day School	14,650
National Presbyterian School	14,945
Georgetown Day School	15,218
Lowell School	15,990
Rock Creek International School	16,975
Sidwell Friends School	17,600
Washington International School	17,655
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School	17,800
Sheridan School	17,980
Lab School of Washington	18,000
Maret School	18,360
National Cathedral School	20,225
Kingsbury Day School	21,200
St. Albans School for Boys	21,837
Median Tuition	4,500
D.C. (High Schools)	
Washington Middle School for Girls	4,000
Ideal Academy	4,500
Archbishop Carroll High School	6,300
Sankofa Fie	7,500
San Miguel Middle School	9,000
St. John's College High School	9,470
Gonzaga College High School	10,150
Georgetown Visitation Prep School	13,100
St. Anselm's Abbey School	14,800
British School of Washington	14,900
Emerson Preparatory School	16,000
Nora School	16,150
Parkmont School	18,200
Edmund Burke School	18,400
Washington International School	19,670
Sidwell Friends School	19,990
National Cathedral School	20,225
Field School	20,580
Lab School of Washington	21,000
Maret School	21,140
Georgetown Day High School	21,327
St. Albans School for Boys	21,837
Median Tuition	16,075
Philadelphia (Elementary Schools)	
Mt Airy Christian Day School	1,050
Jubilee School	1,100
St. Malachy Elementary School	1,150
Celestial Christian Community	1,170
Hunting Park Christian Academy	1,200
All Saints Elementary School	1,221
St. John the Baptist School	1,442
Nativity B.V.M.	1,450
Our Lady of Consolation	1,525
Annunciation B V M School	1,561
St. Anne School	1,575
Holy Name of Jesus School	1,595
Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic School	1,600
Presentation B.V.M. Elementary School	1,600

St. Leo Elementary School	1,600
St. Matthew	1,600
Mother of Divine Grace	1,700
St. Thomas Aquinas School	1,700
St. Timothy Elementary	1,700
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School	1,725
St. Martin de Porres School	1,735
St. Hugh School	1,745
Our Lady Star of the Sea	1,750
St. Adalbert Elementary School	1,750
Martin De Porres	1,800
Muhammad Islamic Academy	1,800
St. Anselm Elementary School	1,800
Gesu Catholic School	1,820
St. Mary of the Assumption School	1,835
Resurrection of Our Lord	1,845
Holy Family Elementary School	1,850
St. Richard	1,850
Visitation Bvm School	1,850
St. Albert The Great School	1,875
St. Raymond	1,875
St. Veronica Elementary School	1,890
Nativity Catholic Academy	1,900
Our Lady Help of Christians	1,900
Our Mother of Sorrows School	1,900
St. Boniface Elementary School	1,900
St. Hilary of Poitiers School	1,900
St. Ignatius of Loyola School	1,900
St. Helena School	1,920
Stella Maris School	1,925
St. Casimir Elementary School	1,940
St. Martin De Porres Interparochial School	1,950
St. Rose of Lima Elementary School	1,950
Al-Aqsa Islamic School	1,952
Our Lady of Victory School	2,000
Our Mother of Sorrows School	2,000
Salafiyah Soc Islamic Day School	2,000
School of Moorish Science Temp	2,000
St. Bernard School	2,000
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School	2,000
St. Cyprian	2,000
St. Francis De Sales School of Philadelphia	2,000
St. Josaphat Elementary School	2,000
Christ The King Elementary School	2,025
St. Cyril of Alexandria School	2,025
Our Lady of Hope Catholic School	2,080
Our Lady of Lourdes School	2,080
Holy Spirit Elementary School	2,095
Our Lady of Calvary School	2,100
Our Lady of Ransom School	2,100
Presentation B.V.M. School– Penn Wyne	2,100
St. Martin of Tours School	2,100
St. Nicholas of Tolentine	2,140
Epiphany of Our Lord School	2,150
Incarnation of Our Lord School	2,150
St. Bartholomew Elementary School	2,165
Ascension of Our Lord School	2,200
St. George School	2,200
St. Jerome Elementary School	2,200
St. Josaphat's Ukranian Catholic School	2,200
St. Laurentius School	2,200
St. Barnabas Elementary School	2,210
St. Bridget Parish School	2,227
Mater Dolorosa Elementary School	2,230
Bethel Baptist Academy	2,250
Cockrell Christian School	2,250
St. Joachim	2,250
St. Martha Elementary School	2,250
Holy Cross Elementary School	2,296
Our Lady of Angels	2,300
St. Joan of Arc Elementary School	2,300
Holy Innocents	2,325
St. Cecilia Elementary School	2,325
Our Lady of The Rosary School	2,350
St. Therese Parochial School	2,350
St. Katherine of Siena School	2,400
St. Peter The Apostle School	2,400
St. Athanasius/Immaculate Conception	2,453
St. Lucy School	2,475
Evelyn Graves Christian Academy	2,480
Trinity Christian School	2,485
Chalutzim Academy	2,500
Immaculate Heart of Mary	2,500
St. Aloysius Elementary School	2,500
St. Gabriel Elementary School	2,500
St. Joseph Elementary School	2,500
St. William School	2,508
Beulah Baptist Christian Day School	2,520
Fresh Fire Christian Academy of Learning	2,520
St. Christopher Elementary School	2,550
Montessori Genesis 2 School	2,555
St. Francis Xavier School	2,600

St. Philip Neri Elementary School	2,600
St. Mary's Interparochial	2,625
Broad Street Academy	2,630
St. Thomas Good Counsel School	2,650
Crusaders for Christ	2,700
Our Lady of Confidence Day School	2,700
St. Clement Irenaeus	2,700
St. Helena Elementary School	2,700
St. Katherine Day School	2,700
St. Monica Elementary School	2,700
The Islamic Education School	2,700
Maria Gardner Christian Academy	2,750
Crooked Places Made Straight Christian Academy	2,775
Holmesburg Baptist Christ School	2,776
Philadelphia Christian Academy	2,800
Saints Tabernacle Day School Christian Academy	2,800
Christ Academy	2,850
St. David School	2,850
Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy	2,860
Eagle's Nest Christian Academy	2,870
Quba Institute	2,900
Sojouner Truth SDA School	2,900
St. Ambrose School	2,904
Our Mother of Consolation School	2,910
American Christian School	2,921
St. Ambrose Elementary School	2,968
Al Mosheh Schule Pos. Ed	3,000
Christian Stronghold Academy	3,000
Christ's Christian Academy	3,000
Grace Temple Christian Academy	3,000
Growing Light Day School	3,000
Harold O Davis Christian School	3,000
Marcus Garvey Shule Pos. Ed	3,000
New Testament Christian Academy	3,000
Triumph Christian School	3,000
St. Dominic	3,010
Our Lady of Fatima School	3,025
Calvary Christian Academy	3,100
Gospel of Grace Christian School	3,100
High St. Christian Academy	3,200
High St. Christian Academy	3,200
St. Benedict Elementary School	3,200
Sacred Heart of Jesus School	3,264
Larchwood School	3,290
Lehigh Christian Academy	3,300
Wynfield Primary Academy	3,300
Cedar Grove Christian Academy Lower School	3,319
Calvary Temple Christian Academy	3,408
West Oak Lane Christian Academy	3,410
Philadelphia Children's School--Waldorf Inspired Education	3,445
Ivy Leaf School (Lower School)	3,450
Messiah Early Childhood Center	3,500
Sanctuary Christian Academy	3,500
Deliverance Evangelistic Christian Academy and Daycare	3,536
Cornerstone Christian Academy	3,583
Immanuel Lutheran School	3,600
Abdul Hakim Family Day Care School	3,625
Redeemer Lutheran School	3,665
Lotus Academy	3,690
Valley Christian School	3,700
Timothy Academy	3,721
Hope Church School	3,750
Spruce Hill Christian School	3,775
Se. Donato Elementary School	3,800
Cecilian Academy	4,000
St. James School	4,250
Woodbine Academy	4,300
Blair Christian Academy	4,400
St. Barnabas Episcopal School	4,750
Christian Tabernacle Academy	5,000
Direct Connection Institute for Learning	5,000
Direct Connection Institute for Learning	5,200
Federation Day Care Services	5,280
Phil-Mont Christian School --Roxborough	5,400
Politz Hebrew Academy	5,416
Fern Rock	5,500
Frankford Friends School	5,700
Project Learn School	6,675
Norwood-Fontbonne Academy	6,985
Waldron Mercy	7,100
Germantown Montessori School	7,500
Holy Child Academy	7,725
Greene Street Friends School	8,066
Sister Clara Muhammad School	8,750
Germantown Friends School	10,565
Philadelphia School	10,645
Maternity Bvm	11,000
St. Peters School	12,215
Torah Academy	12,300
Friends Central School	12,975

Chestnut Hill Academy	13,700
Friends Select School	14,225
Abington Friends School	14,600
Stratford Friends School	19,350
Median Tuition	2,504

Philadelphia (High Schools)

Muhammad Islamic Academy	1,800
Berean Bible Christian School	2,145
Evelyn Graves Christian Academy	2,480
Eagle's Nest Christian Academy	2,870
Calvary Christian Academy	3,100
Gospel of Grace Christian School	3,100
Quba Institute	3,200
Cardinal Dougherty High School	3,500
Archbishop Carroll High School	3,520
Archbishop Prendergast High School	3,520
Father Judge High School	3,520
Northeast Catholic High School	3,520
St. Huberts Catholic High School for Girls	3,520
Archbishop Ryan High School	3,651
Abp Ryan High School	3,700
John W Hallahan High School	3,700
Roman Catholic High School	3,705
City Center Academy	3,800
Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls	3,872
City Center Academy	3,900
Mercy Vocational High School	3,910
Grace Temple Christian Academy	4,000
Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy	4,147
International Christian High School	4,250
Delaware Valley High School	4,300
Bishop Mcdevitt High School	4,310
John W. Hallahan High School	4,310
Monsignor Bonnor High School	4,310
St. John Neumann High School	4,310
St. Maria Goretti High School	4,310
American Christian School	4,400
Phila. Christian Academy (Cottman Ave.)	4,500
Rittenhouse Academy	4,500
Student Ed Ct and Del Vly High School	4,640
West Catholic High School	4,705
Hope Church School	4,750
Blair Christian Academy	4,950
Nazareth Academy	5,700
St. Basil Academy	5,900
Nazareth Academy High School	6,000
Yeshiva Bircnas Chaim	6,400
Philadelphia Mennonite High School	6,500
Phil-Mont Chr Sch--Roxborough	6,721
Sister Clara Muhammad School	8,750
Merion Mercy Academy	9,400
Lasalle College High School	9,600
Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia	10,500
St. Joseph's Preparatory School	11,700
Torah Academy	12,300
Germantown Friends School	15,585
Friends Select School	16,070
Springside School	16,900
Chestnut Hill Academy	17,100
Crefeld School	17,550
Median Tuition	4,310

Source: Tuition data were obtained from the Children's Scholarship Fund and through direct contact with the private schools. Since tuition often varies by grade level, tuition indicated may be the average tuition paid by students at the school.

Notes

1. Thomas Paine, "The Rights of Man," in *The Thomas Paine Reader* (New York: Penguin, 1987), p. 338.

2. National Commission on Excellence in Education, *A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform* (Washington: Superintendent of Documents, 1983).

3. Recent reports have shown fresh evidence of a continuing educational crisis. The U.S. Commission on National Security, in a report published earlier this year, lamented the fact that American students still lag far behind those of other countries in scientific knowledge and math. See "Road Map for National Security: Imperative for Change," The Phase III Report of the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century, U.S. Department of State, Office of International Information Programs, February 15, 2001. Most recently, the prestigious Koret Task Force on K-12 education released its finding after an extensive review of the state of American education. The task force concluded that the performance of U.S. public schools remains stagnant. Since *A Nation at Risk*, about 80 million first graders "have walked into schools where they have scant chance of learn-

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ing more than the youngsters whose plight troubled the Commission in 1983," observed the task force. See *Our Schools and Our Future: Are We Still at Risk?* ed. Paul E. Peterson (Stanford, California: Hoover Institution, 2003), p. 21.

4. John E. Chubb and Terry M. Moe, *Politics, Markets, and America's Schools* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 1990).

5. John E. Chubb, in "Making Schools Better," Manhattan Institute, Center for Educational Innovation, New York, 1989, pp. 10–11. Comparisons of private and government school systems in other cities showed similar disparities. For example, see Mike Bowler, "Catholic Schools: More for Less," *Baltimore Sun*, October 8, 1995, p. 2C; and David Boaz, "The Public School Monopoly: America's Berlin Wall," in *Liberating Schools: Education in the Inner City*, ed. David Boaz (Washington: Cato Institute, 1991). Also see David W. Kirkpatrick, *Choice in Schooling: The Case for Tuition Vouchers* (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1990); and H. J. Walberg, M. J. Bakalis, J. L. Bast, and S. Baer, *We Can Rescue Our Children: The Cure for Chicago's Public School Crisis* (Chicago: Heartland Institute, 1988).

6. Boaz, *Liberating Schools*, pp. 14–17.

7. For enrollment figures see U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2001* (Washington: 2002), Table 36.

8. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics*, 2002 (Washington: NCES, 2002), Table 35.

9. Ibid., Table 35.

10. Quoted in "Reding, Writing and Erithmatic," editorial, *Wall Street Journal*, October 2, 1989.

11. Walter E. Williams, "Tuition Tax Credits: Other Benefits," *Policy Review* (Spring 1978): 85.

12. Arizona provides tax credits to taxpayers who contribute to organizations that award private school scholarships to children. The tax credits are limited to $500 per individual taxpayer ($650 for couples). Businesses and corporations cannot participate. In Pennsylvania and Florida, businesses can claim tax credits for contributions to private scholarship organizations but individual taxpayers or parents cannot. The cities of Cleveland and Milwaukee have voucher programs that are limited to children living within the city's school districts and are focused primarily on low-income students. In Florida, almost 24,000 children use vouchers to attend private schools, but these are limited to children in low-performing public schools or to children with disabilities.

13. To date, two states (California and Michigan) have proposed statewide voucher programs through ballot initiatives. Although these initiatives failed to be approved by a majority of voters in either state, polls indicate that the percentage of Americans who support allowing parents to spend their education tax dollars at the public or private school of their choice continues to increase. According to the 2001 Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll, 52 percent of Americans were supportive of school choice (up from 44 percent in the previous year). From 1996 to 2000, support levels were 43, 49, 51, 51, and 45 percent, respectively. See George Clowes, "What Does America Think? Attitudes about School Choice, Education, and Related Issues," *School Reform News*, April 2003, p. 16. Also, according to a poll conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, 60 percent of black adults favor allowing families to use their education tax dollars at a private or public school. Of blacks in the 18–25 age rage, 71 percent favor school choice. See *2002 National Opinion Poll*, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington.

14. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics 2002*, Table 166, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/2003060b.pdf.

15. Myron Lieberman and Charlene K. Haar, *Public Education as a Business: Real Costs and Accountability* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Education Press, 2003). Also see Myron Lieberman, *Privatization and Educational Choice* (New York: St. Martin's, 1989), pp. 65–73, 220–28; and Myron Lieberman, *Public Education: An Autopsy* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1993), p. 114–42.

16. According to a 1998 survey of Catholic and other religious schools, tuition covers approximately 82 percent of operating costs. The rest is made up through church subsidies. See Lana Muraskin and Stephanie Stullich, "Barriers, Benefits and Costs of Using Private Schools to Alleviate Overcrowding in Public Schools," U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Undersecretary, November 1998, p. 13.

17. For example, a recent report on the use of vouchers in Florida by the anti-voucher People for the American Way Foundation reported only the high-end costs of Florida private schools. See People for the American Way, "Jeopardizing a Legacy: A Closer Look at IDEA and Florida's Disability Voucher Program," Washington, March 6, 2003, www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=9063. Anthony Williams, mayor of Washington, D.C., and a supporter of vouchers, stated that "most private school tuitions run in the five figures—far beyond what is

contemplated for the voucher program." (In reality, only 39 percent of D.C. private schools have tuitions of $10,000 or more.)

18. Tuition data were obtained from the Children's Scholarship Fund and through direct contact with the private schools. CSF provided tuition data on private schools in which there were CSF students enrolled. Other private schools were contacted by telephone. Since tuition often varies by grade level, tuition may be reported as the average tuition paid by students at the school. The author wishes to thank Puja Ahluwalia and the Children's Scholarship Fund for their assistance is obtaining these data.

19. See Louisiana Department of Education, *152nd Annual Financial and Statistical Report 2000–2001*, p. 148, www.doe.state.la.us/DOE/PDFs/AFSR01.pdf.

20. National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002*, Table 93.

21. Colorado Department of Education, Fiscal Year 2000–01 District Revenue and Expenditures, www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/download/spreadsheet/AllExp01.xls.

22. South Carolina Department of Education, Fiscal Year '01 In$ite, Charleston County, www.sde.state.sc.us/offices/finance/01InSite1.xls.

23. National Center for Educational Statistics, "Early Estimates of Public Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics: School Year 2001–2002," http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002311.pdf.

24. Cato telephone survey of private high schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, and Montgomery County, Maryland.

25. Pennsylvania Department of Education, "Selected Expenditure Data for Pennsylvania Public Schools 2000–01," Table 5, www.pde.state.pa.us/k12_finances/lib/k12_finances/2000-01Table5Exp.pdf.

26. In all six cities surveyed, there were a number of nonparochial schools that charged less than $5,000. Washington, D.C., the most expensive of the six cities surveyed, has 10 nonparochial private schools that charge $5,000 or less.

27. Most states prohibit for-profit companies from creating charter schools. See Center for Education Reform, *Charter School Laws across the States* (Washington: Center for Education Reform, 2003), www.edreform.com/press/2003/charterlaws.htm. Other states, such as Michigan, have attempted to ban for-profit companies from managing public or charter schools. See www.csdc.org/bulletin/archive/stateLeg/w00state.html.

28. For an overview of U.S. private school performance compared with public schools, see Andrew Coulson, *Market Education: The Unknown History* (New Brunswick: Transaction, 1999), pp. 259–90. In addition, a new report from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that parents of children in private schools are more satisfied with their schools than parents of children in public schools. See National Center for Education Statistics, "Trends in the Use of School Choice 1993–1999," May 2003.

29. For a review of the literature on the importance of the profit motive in education, see Coulson, *Market Education*, p. 287.

30. Many of the most promising and innovative developments in education are taking place in the private for-profit sector. Software companies have developed some of the most effective and innovative learning programs available. Online high schools and universities are increasingly providing services to regular, home-schooled, and special education students. Kaplan "Score" learning centers have established a firm track record of teaching reading and math to children who failed to learn in the public schools. See Gregory Fossedal, "Ed-biz: Where Business and Education Meet," UPI, March 31, 2003; also Carrie Lips, "Edupreneurs: A Survey of For-Profit Education," Cato Institute Policy Analysis no. 386, November 20, 2000.

31. Lawmakers in New York and Texas have proposed property tax credits for private school tuition. Sample legislation can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/tlo/textframe.cmd?LEG=76&SESS=R&CHAMBER=H&BILLTYPE=B&BILLSUFFIX=03701&VERSION=1&TYPE=B.

32. For example, the California Learning Assessment System or CLAS, focused on "new math," "whole-language," and "natural spelling." In the words of Gov. Pete Wilson's education secretary, the CLAS, "Gave no individual scores, tested no basic skills, was related to a scale no one could explain, and never used the expertise of professional measurement experts." See Maureen DiMarco, "Measurement and Reform," in *What's Gone Wrong in America's Classrooms?* ed. William Evers (Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press, 1998).

33. In Florida, where private schools are largely unregulated, 95 percent of private schools already administer commercially designed standardized tests according to a recent survey. See Jay P. Greene and Marcus A. Winters, "Forcing the FCAT on Voucher Schools Is a

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Bad Idea," *Tallahassee Democrat*, March 31, 2003.

34. For a review of the strengths and weakness of state tests, see Williamson M. Evers, "Standards and Accountability" in *A Primer on America's Schools*, ed. Terry M. Moe (Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press), 2001. Also see Paul T. Hill, "Getting Standards Right," *Hoover Digest*, no. 2 (2002), www. hoover.stanford.edu/publications/digest/022/toc022.html; and Carolan and Keating, "Private Schools Should Flee State Testing Requirements," *Newsday*, June 4, 2002, http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/newsday/122570811.html?did=122570811&FMT=ABS&FMTS=FT&PMID=33538&desc=Private+Schools+Should+Flee+State+Testing+Requirements.

35. According to a 1998 U.S. Department of Education survey, at least half of all private schools would decline to participate in a school choice program if voucher students are randomly assigned to participating private schools (rather than allowing the schools to exercise control over which students they admit), and 89 percent of religious schools said they would not participate in a school choice program if students were allowed to opt out of religious instruction. See Lana Muraskin, "Barriers, Benefits, and Costs of Using Private Schools to Alleviate Overcrowding in Public Schools," U.S. Department of Education, Planning and Evaluation Services, Washington, 1998.

36. The percentage of school age children in Florida private schools rose from 9.31 percent in 1992 to 12.5 percent in 2000–01. See Florida Department of Education, "Distribution of Students over a Ten-Year Period: June 28, 2001, www.firn.edu/doe/choice/tencomp.htm. According to the Department of Education's Choice Office, 353 new private schools registered with the department between May 2000 and December 2002.

37. American Education Reform Council, "Schools That Choice Built," Milwaukee, 2003.

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